From: "Collins, Francis (NHGRI)" <francisc@exchange.nih.gov>
To: "Varmus, Harold <hv2b>" <hv2b@nih.gov>
Subject: FW: some responses
Date: Wed, 13 May 1998 07:54:03 -0400

A few more responses from our Council members, thought you'd be interested. The Bold Plan will strike a responsive chord.
FC

-----Original Message-----
From: Guyer, Mark (NHGRI)
Sent: Monday, May 11, 1998 12:06 PM
To: Collins, Francis (NHGRI); Jordan, Elke (NHGRI); Hudson, Kathy; Peterson, Jane (NHGRI); Felsenfeld, Adam (NHGRI); Schloss, Jeff (NHGRI)
Subject: some responses

Here are the responses to yesterday's e-mail that I have gotten so far from Council members:

>From David Valle:
Mark,
Thanks for the update; I have been checking my email all day since reading the Times story this AM. Obviously, many questions follow from this, not the least of which is whether or not ABD will really have the technology online as quickly as they think they will and will they live up to their promise to make the equipment available to others. Also there are considerable concerns regarding use and accessibility of the data.
Thanks again for keeping us posted; let me know if there is anything I can do.
David

>From Joe Nadeau:
Hi Mark, this is great news for the human genome interests (lower case) but I am deeply concenred about its implications for the Human Genome Project (upper case). (I too saw the article the am in the NYT, and I've been talking about it all day, perhaps to my wife's regret.) I appreciate the need to put a good face on this for the public (eg NYT), but for NHGRI this would seem to be a huge problem. The principal concerns are two-fold:

1. intellectual property - what is the companies business plan, how will they recoup their investment if the sequences are not protecxted - it's hard to believe there is so much value in 200 genes, and I suspect that NIH, as the guardian of the public interests, would also be deeply interested in the same genes.

2. the future of the NHGRI - it's future after the human sequence was complete always seemed ambiguous to me, and it was usualy left ambiguous given the few anticipated that the sequence might be complete so soon. In

addition, if the new company can complete the human sequence so cost effectively, what justification could there be to do the mouse genome sequence by the more expensive method that was to be used by NHGRI for the human sequence.

This issues raises profound and broad questions on many fronts. These are just two immediate obvious concerns.

If I was Congress I would want answers, fast.

Joe